



NEWS RELEASE

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BONIFAY RECEIVES \$1,683,000 FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BREAKS GROUND ON WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

BONIFAY, FL, October 8, 2004 — The northwest Florida community of Bonifay took a giant step forward today. With financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, today's combined ceremonial check signing and groundbreaking event will bring much needed improvements to the City of Bonifay's water system. Located in Holmes County, the City of Bonifay owns and operates the water system that supplies water to over 2,500 customers.

The City of Bonifay owns and operates three wells and maintains two elevated storage tanks. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the city has inadequate drinking water storage and fire protection as well as problems with water loss. Improvements to the water supply, storage and distribution systems and expansion of the water system will increase water pressure throughout the system and ensure water availability during power outages. Improvements include a new well, storage tank, standby power generator and major upgrades of the water mains. The system will also be looped, bringing improved overall pressure to the system.

With a \$1,683,000 Water and Waste Disposal Loan from USDA Rural Development, system improvements will be made ensuring that appropriate requirements are met and anticipated growth needs of the community are served. "Investing in basic community infrastructure supports President Bush's vision for a strong and vibrant rural America," said Rural Development State Director Charles W. Clemons, Sr. "We can never take for granted the importance of fresh clean water for the health and safety of our residents, to the viability of our environment, and to the sustainability of our communities."

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl>

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